

Appln. of: BEATTIE
Serial No.: 10/647,304
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs bridging page 3, lines 27-30 through page 4, lines 1-2, as follows:

Fig. 2 shows a partial sectional view of the tie rod jam nut of the present invention installed on a conventional tie rod assembly; and

Fig. 3 is a partial sectional view of an alternative embodiment of the tie rod jam nut; and

Fig. 4 is a partial side elevational view of a further alternative embodiment of the tie rod jam nut; and

FIG. 5 is a partial sectional view of the tie rod jam nut similar to FIG. 2 but shown in an unlocked position.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 7-24, as follows:

A tie rod jam nut 40 according to the present invention is shown in partial sectional view in Fig. 2. It replaces the jam nut 26 shown in Fig. 1 and includes an elongated tubular body 42 having a first end 44 and a second end 46. The tubular body has an axially extending internal bore 48 that receives a portion of the tie rod 16. Tie rod 16 includes an inboard axially facing jam nut engaging portion 70 and an outboard axially facing jam nut engaging portion 72. The tie rod jam nut 40 includes a locking portion 50 connected to the first end of the tubular body 42. The locking portion has a threaded bore 52 for engaging the threaded portion of connecting component 22 and a face portion 54 for engaging the inboard axially facing jam nut engaginga portion 70 of the tie rod 16, when the connecting component 22 is screwed into the threaded bore 18 of the tie rod 16. The face portion 54 of the locking portion 50 can thus engage the inboard axially facing jam nut engaging portion 70 of the tie rod 16 so as to lock the

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connecting component 22 with respect to the tie rod 16 as the locking portion 50 is rotated in a first direction about the threaded portion of the connecting component 22 (see FIG. 2) and disengage the same portion of the tie rod 16 so as to unlock the connecting component 22 with respect to the tie rod 16 as the locking portion 50 is rotated in a direction opposite the first direction about the threaded portion of the connecting component 22 (see FIG. 5). When the tie rod jam nut 40 and jam nut 28 are loosened, i.e., put in the unlocked position (see FIG. 5), the tie rod 16 can be rotated to adjust toe-in and when both jam nuts 40 and 28 are tightened, or put in the locked position, the tie rod 16 is locked with respect to the connecting components 22, 24 and the toe-in remains at the adjusted dimension.